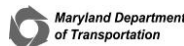


PUBLIC NOTICE



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, AND THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WILL CONDUCT A JOINT LOCATION/DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING FOR MD 5 from US 301 to I-95/I-495 in Prince George's County

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Surrattsville High School

6101 Garden Drive, Clinton, MD 20735

6:00 PM – Displays

7:00 PM – Presentation/Testimony

The purpose of this hearing is to provide all interested persons the opportunity to comment on the project's location, general design, proposed alternatives, and associated social, economic, cultural, and natural environmental impacts of the project alternatives.

MD 5 is a heavily traveled commuter corridor connecting southern Maryland and Virginia to Washington, D.C. The project would improve existing capacity and traffic operations along MD 5 to increase vehicular and pedestrian safety, support existing and planned development in the area, and enhance and facilitate transit services. In order to maintain the integrity of the interstate system, the study team must also consider the potential impacts on I-95/I-495 when improvements are made to traffic operations along northbound MD 5.

The project proposes widening MD 5 from two lanes to three in both directions (eastbound and westbound) in the southern half of the corridor (from US 301 to MD 223) and from three lanes to four in both directions in the northern half of the corridor (from MD 223 to I-95/I-495). The study also proposes Priced Managed and Non-Priced Managed Lane alternatives, which are "managed" using one or more of the following strategies: **Pricing** - tolls can vary based on roadway congestion, time of day, vehicle occupancy, or access to specific areas; **Vehicle Eligibility** - High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) and truck restrictions; and **Access Control** - reversible lanes or express lanes. In addition to the mainline widening alternatives, the project proposes two interchange alternatives (Surratts Road and Burch Hill Road/Moores Road/ Earnshaw Drive). Each interchange alternative includes two options.

Beginning at 6:00 pm, the project alternatives and other information will be on display. Public hearing displays and other project information will be available on the SHA website at <http://www.roads.maryland.gov>. Click on **Projects & Studies, SHA Projects Page, and Prince George's County**, then **MD 5, Branch Avenue (US 301 at TB to Auth Road)** under **Preconstruction**. Representatives of the State Highway Administration (SHA), US Army Corps of Engineers (COE), and Prince George's County will be available to discuss the project and record comments.

A formal presentation, beginning at 7:00 pm and lasting approximately 20 minutes, will include a description of the project alternatives, a summary of environmental impacts, information on right-of-way acquisition and relocation assistance procedures, and an explanation of Title VI of the Equal Opportunity Program. The presentation will be followed by public testimony.

Depending on the build alternative and interchange option, stream impacts would range from 16,796 to 27,429 linear feet, and wetland impacts would range from 4.7 to 13.6 acres. SHA, in consultation with the COE, has identified Waters of the United States, including jurisdictional wetlands, which are regulated by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This public hearing provides the opportunity to present views, opinions, and information which will be considered by the COE in evaluating a Department of the Army permit for impacts on wetlands and Waters of the US. All comments will become part of the formal project record. Copies of written statements expressing concern for aquatic resources may be submitted to Mary Frazier, US Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CENAB-OP-RMN P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, MD 21203-1715, or emailed to Mary.A.Frazier@usace.army.mil until July 8, 2012.

The Environmental Assessment may serve as the application for a future COE permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Coordination with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) also ensures that the document includes alternatives analysis for the state's wetland permit review. Application of the state permit will be made after the alternative selection process is completed.

The decision to issue the Section 404 permit will be based on the evaluation of the probable impacts of the proposed project on the public interest, including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. This decision will reflect the national concern for the protection and use of important resources. The benefits that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposed project must be balanced against the reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposed project will be considered, including cumulative effects. Among these factors are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplains values, land use, navigational concerns, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The evaluation of the impact that the work described above will have on the public interest will include an application of the Clean Water Act Section 404(b) (1) promulgated by the Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The COE is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. The COE will consider these comments when determining whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal.

To make this decision, the COE takes into account public hearing comments regarding the assessment of impacts on endangered species, historic property, and other public-interest factors listed above.

The SHA is required to obtain water-quality certification for the project from MDE in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Any written comments concerning the work described above which would relate to water-quality certification should be sent to

Mr. Steve Hurt, Maryland Department of the Environment, Wetlands and Waterways Program, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230.

Individuals and representatives of organizations may submit a request to testify at the hearing by writing to

Ms. Tessa Young, Project Manager, Project Management Division, Maryland State Highway Administration, 707 N. Calvert Street, MS C-301, Baltimore, MD 21202; calling 410-545-8527 or toll-free 1-800-548-5026; or emailing tyoung@sha.state.md.us no later than May 31, 2012.

Attendees may sign the Speakers List at the registration desk on the date of the hearing. Submit written statements and other exhibits for inclusion in the public hearing transcript to the Project Manager at the address listed above until July 9, 2012. The public hearing transcript will be available for review approximately eight weeks after the hearing at the locations listed below and on SHA's website. Please contact the Project Manager to confirm its availability.

Following the formal presentation, elected officials will be given the opportunity to speak first. Persons on the Speakers List will be called to testify in the order in which their requests were received, and those who did not pre-register will be invited to speak before testimony concludes. SHA may set a time limit for each speaker if a large number register to testify. Private and written testimony will also be accepted.

If you received a copy of this notice in the mail, you are included on the project mailing list and will receive information about project developments and opportunities for public involvement as the study progresses. Persons not on the mailing list may add their contact information by phoning, writing, or emailing the Project Manager. Brochures and comment forms will be available at the hearing.

Beginning on **May 7, 2012**, the **Environmental Assessment** describing the project will be available for inspection and copying during normal business hours at the following locations:

Prince George's County Government
Department of Public Works and Transportation
9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 300
Largo, MD 20774
(301) 883-5600

State Highway Administration
District 3 Office
9300 Kenilworth Avenue
Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301) 513-7300

Prince George's County Public Library
Surratts-Clinton Library
9400 Piscataway Road
Clinton, MD 20735
(301) 868-9200
Monday - Wednesday, 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Thursday and Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Saturday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Project Management Division
707 N. Calvert Street, 3rd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 545-8527
(800) 548-5026

Charles County Public Library
P.D. Brown Memorial Branch
50 Village Street
Waldorf, MD 20502
(301) 645-2864
Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Saturday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

US Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch, 8th Floor
10 S. Howard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 962-4252

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

The Maryland Relay Service can assist teletype users at 711. Persons requiring special assistance to participate should contact the Project Manager. Whenever possible, SHA will provide an interpreter for persons with hearing/speech disabilities or who need assistance with the English language. To request special assistance or an interpreter, please contact the Project Manager no later than May 31.

May 7, 2012
A-0621

Melinda B. Peters
State Highway Administrator



Maryland now features FREE 511 traveler information! Call 511 or 1-855-GOMD511 or visit: www.md511.org for current travel information. Please remember to use 511 safely.